

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for updating information in an independent supply chain management system ~~that cannot mandate store-distributor relationships in the supply chain~~, comprising:

a) an independent supply chain management system that cannot mandate store-distributor relationships for a plurality of stores in the supply chain registering a plurality of stores of a supply chain to a database of the supply chain management system utilizing a network, the registration including receiving and storing as registration information first identification information including a store identification and a distributor associated with the store;

b) collecting data from a plurality of stores of the supply chain utilizing the network, the data relating to the sale of goods by the stores and including second identification information including a store identification and a distributor associated with the store, the second identification information being more recent than the first identification information;

c) allowing access to the data utilizing a network-based interface;

d) the independent supply chain management system comparing the store identification and the distributor in the first identification information with the store identification and the distributor in the second identification information; and

e) the independent supply chain management system automatically updating the distributor in the registration information for a ~~of~~ respective stores based on the comparison.

Claims 2-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for updating information in an independent supply chain management system ~~that cannot mandate store-distributor relationships in the supply chain~~, comprising:

a) logic for an independent supply chain management system that cannot mandate store-distributor relationships for a plurality of stores in the supply chain

registering a plurality of stores of a supply chain to a database of the supply chain management system utilizing a network, the registration including receiving and storing as registration information first identification information including a store identification and a distributor associated with the store;

b) logic for collecting data from a plurality of stores of the supply chain utilizing the network, the data relating to the sale of goods by the stores and including second identification information including a store identification and a distributor associated with the store, the second identification information being more recent than the first identification information;

c) logic for allowing access to the data utilizing a network-based interface;

d) logic for the independent supply chain management system comparing the store identification and the distributor in the first identification information with the store identification and the distributor in the second identification information; and

e) logic for the independent supply chain management system automatically updating the distributor in the registration information for a ~~of~~ respective stores based on the comparison.

Claims 8-11 (Canceled)

12. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for updating information in an independent supply chain management ~~system that cannot mandate store-distributor relationships in the supply chain~~, comprising:

a) computer code for an independent supply chain management system that cannot mandate store-distributor relationships for a plurality of stores in the supply chain registering a plurality of stores of a supply chain to a database of the supply chain management system utilizing a network, the registration including receiving and storing as registration information first identification information including a store identification and a distributor associated with the store;

b) computer code for collecting data from a plurality of stores of the supply chain utilizing the network, the data relating to the sale of goods by the stores and including second identification information including a store identification and a

distributor associated with the store, the second identification information being more recent than the first identification information;

c) computer code for allowing access to the data utilizing a network-based interface;

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d) computer code for the independent supply chain management system comparing the store identification and the distributor in the first identification information with the store identification and the distributor in the second identification information; and

e) computer code for the independent supply chain management system automatically updating the distributor in the registration information for a ~~of~~ respective store~~stores~~ based on the comparison.

Claims 14-17 (Canceled)

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the Internet.

19. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating an order for goods to the updated distributor in said registration information.

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20. (New) The system of claim 7, further comprising a component for generating an order for goods to the updated distributor in said registration information.

21. (New) The computer program product of claim 1, further comprising computer code for generating an order for goods to the updated distributor in said registration information.